

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 H-01

/054 W

-----141008Z 039979 /21

P 140925Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2257

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, TW, US

SUBJECT: INQUIRY ABOUT REPORTED POLITICAL PRISONER CHAN CHUNG-  
HSIUNG

REF: STATE 5984

1. SINCE EMBASSY HAS ALMOST NO INFORMATION ON FILE REGARDING CHAN CHUNG-HSIUNG (6124/6850/7160), WE HAVE ASKED MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR CHARLES KING (CHIN SHU-CHI) TO PROVIDE US, ON DEPARTMENT'S BEHALF, WITH RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. WHAT LITTLE INFORMATION WE DO HAVE ON CHAN SUGGESTS THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE 1970-71 BOMBING INCIDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH HSIEH TSUNG-MIN. CHAN ALLEGEDLY WAS THE PERSON WHO PLANTED A BOMB IN BANK OF AMERICAN, TAIPEI.

2. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUS TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL, EMBASSY (CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER) RECEIVED A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM JAMES P. LEWIS, WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE DETROIT CHAPTER OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI), FOR INFORMATION ON CHAN SIMILAR TO THAT REQUESTED REFTEL. IN ADDITION, LEWIS HAS ASKED FOR ADVICE ON WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT WOULD TRANSMIT A LETTER TO CHAN FROM AI.

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3. WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR UNSYMPATHETIC TO LEWIS'S REQUEST BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION TO EITHER AMNESTY OR THE GROC THAT THE EMBASSY IS ACTING AS A MIDDLEMAN FOR AI. GROC'S RECORD OF RESPONDING TO OUR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS HAS IMPROVED OVER PAST YEAR AND WE BELIEVE THIS HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES ON

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. GROC OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE GROC VIEWS AI AS INIMICAL TO THE ROC; AND SHOULD WE APPEAR TO BE ACTING AS AI'S MIDDLEMAN IN CHAN'S CASE, MOFA MAY IN THE FUTURE BE LESS FORTHCOMING.

4. MOREOVER, GIVEN THE LEVEL OF USG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS, WE BELIEVE THERE IS WISDOM IN DEPARTMENT'S (RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL EMBASSIES') COORDINATING SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE TO AI INQUIRIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE TO LIMIT OUR REPLY TO: A) INFORMING LEWIS THAT WE HAVE NO RELIABLE INFORMATION ON CHAN; B) TELLING HIM THAT ANY INFORMATION THE EMBASSY OBTAINS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IS NORMALLY TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT; AND C) SUGGESTING THAT IN THE FUTURE LEWIS DIRECT HIS QUERIES ON POLITICAL PRISONERS TO THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH COORDINATES USG EFFORTS IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. (ASSUMING THAT MOFA DOES NOT REQUEST CONFIDENTIALLY WHEN IT PROVIDES INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA 1 REFTTEL, WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO DEPARTMENT'S RELEASING THIS INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO AI INQUIRIES.)

5. WITH REGARD TO LEWIS'S INQUIRY ON WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND A LETTER TO CHAN FROM AI, WE PLAN TO MAKE NO RESPONSE BEYOND REFERRING HIM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED HANDLING OF LEWIS LETTER ASAP.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, TW, US, (CHAN CHUNG-HSIUNG)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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